

REMARKS:

At the time of the Office Action, claims 1-20 were pending and considered by the Examiner. Claims 1-20 stand rejected. Pursuant to this Amendment, claims 1, 3, 4, 10, 12, 14, 15 and 20 have been amended, and claims 2 and 13 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 3-12 and 14-20 remain pending in the subject application.

The drawings stand objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a). It is noted that the headlamp panel is item 14 and shown in Fig. 6 of the subject application. It is also noted that the housing referred to in the claims is the housing of the headlamp adjuster, which housing is clearly described and identified in the various figures of the subject application. The reference to the headlamp reflector has been deleted from the claims at the suggestion of the Examiner. Of course, this deletion has no adverse affect on the scope of the claims. In view of the foregoing, removal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 5, 9, 10, 12 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Denley (U.S. Publication No. 2001/0030875). This rejection is traversed for at least the following reasons.

Without agreeing with the Examiner as to what is or is not taught by Denley, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of now cancelled claim 2, and independent claim 12 has been amended to include the limitations of now cancelled claim 13. Thus, claims 1 and 12 are patentable over Denley. Claims 5, 9, 10 and 16 depend from one of claims 1 and 12, and, therefore, are allowable for the same reasons applied thereto as well as for the additional subject matter recited in each.

Claims 1, 2, 3, 9, 12-14 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Schmitt et al. (5,381,317). This rejection is traversed for at least the following reasons.

As generally understood, to anticipate a claim, a single reference must contain each and every limitation of the claim. Independent claims 1, 12 and 20 recite that the gear includes a thread that engages the screw thread of the shaft. The device of Schmitt et al. does not contain such a limitation. With reference to, for example, Fig. 4 of Schmitt et al., gear 34 clearly does not include a thread, nor does gear 34 engage the screw 30; rather, gear 34 surrounds bushing 32. For at least this reason the claims as original drafted are not anticipated by Schmitt et al. Even so, to purely advance the prosecution of this application, claims 1, 12 and 20 have been amended to more clearly recite that the thread of the gear directly engages the screw thread of the shaft. Thus, claims 1, 12 and 20 are patentable over Schmitt et al. Claims 3, 9 and 14 depend from one of claims 1 and 12, and, therefore, are allowable for the same reasons applied thereto as well as for the additional subject matter recited in each.

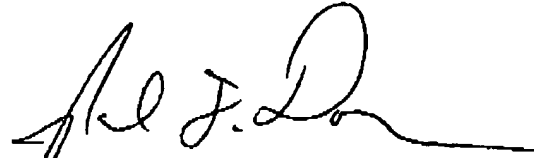
Claims 6-8, 11 and 17-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Denley. Claims 4, 11 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schmitt et al. These rejections are traversed for at least the following reasons.

Claims 4, 6-8, 11, 15 and 17-19 depend from one of claims 1 and 12, and, therefore, are allowable for the same reasons set forth above as well as for the additional subject matter recited in each.

No new matter has been added to the subject application by way of the amendments and remarks made herein.

Reconsideration of the rejected claims and allowance of all the pending claims is respectfully requested. In the event that there are any remaining issues that can be addressed and expedited by telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



Paul F. Donovan
Reg. No. 39,962

Illinois Tool Works Inc.
3600 West Lake Avenue
Glenview, Illinois 60025
Telephone (847) 657-4075
FAX (847) 724-4160